

est of the institution, to express a decided opinion that the present system of furnishing supplies to the institution, superintending the sales of its manufactures; and other services rendered through the medium of two Directors, who are designated the Executive Committee, operates both efficiently and beneficially; and they think the interests of the institution, would not be promoted by the plan of substituting an *actuary*, as proposed in a bill relating to the Penitentiary, lately reported to the House of Delegates. On the contrary, the undersigned conceive it to be essential that such an important agency, upon which the whole pecuniary interests of the institution chiefly rest, should be conducted by two persons, rather than one, as well for consultation and advice, and for a check upon the other officers of the house, as a necessary responsibility to the institution; and also that they should be members of the Board, for the better enabling them, among other reasons, to communicate and advise with the Board.

The compensation of the Executive Committee is \$625 each, per annum,—a salary which must be deemed extremely moderate, when the duties and responsibility of the office are considered, and that they embrace the expenditure and receipt of not less than one hundred thousand dollars annually, for the supplies, materials and sales of the manufactures of the institution.

Signed,

WILLIAM McDONALD,
THOMAS KELSO,
WILLIAM JENKINS,
H. NILES,
THOMAS WM. HALL,
S. D. WALKER.

Baltimore, February 18th, 1836.

This letter, it will be seen, was signed by Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Walker, Directors who usually co-operated with Dr. Baxley at the Board; both of whom, however, suffered themselves to be prevailed upon, *a few days after*, to sign a counter-statement, contained in the memorial of the minority of the Directors to the Senate, in favor of the bill reported to the House of Delegates by Mr. Dulaney. Doubtless gentlemen are at liberty to change their opinions, however deliberately they may be expressed. The letter was never considered private—it was returned by Mr. Winder with his permission to use it; and the fact of some of the signers of it having suddenly changed their minds, *extraordinary as the conversion* might seem, could not invalidate the right, if it were thought proper to use it, of showing what their opinion upon a public matter, deliberately expressed, *had been*; and thus to deprive it of any weight upon the other side.